

Jacqui Fay

From: Cheshire County Conservation District <info+cheshireconservation.org@ccsend.com>
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Jacqui Fay
Subject: Conservation News: March Newsletter

Conservation News

March 2022

News & Updates

- Community Supported Solar: Thank You!
- Community Member Spotlight!
- 2022 Monadnock Localvores Applications Open!
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- 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge
- Full Moon Owl Prowl, Hike to Stoddard Rocks!
- Legal Food Hub Webinar Series



March Blog Article

March Community Member Spotlight: Sara Powell

By: Benée Hershon

A 7-week farmer business planning course has just completed its first successful cohort, transforming local businesses and lives throughout our region. As co-leader of the course, Sara Powell has deep roots in the farming world. Read more about Sara Powell's conservation journey and her role in the new farmer business planning course!

- Landowner Workshops
- NOFA NH Workshops
- CCCD Rental Equipment Program: Now Accepting Reservations!

[Click here to read "March Community Member Spotlight: Sara Powell"](#)

Workshop Opportunities, Community Member Spotlight, Events & Community Info!

See what local conservation events are happening in the upcoming months and review important community info!

Resources & Services

Discover local resources like our [Find A Local Farm Map](#) always available to you at the Cheshire County Conservation District.

Connect with us on social media for up to date events, articles, and information!

Community Supported Solar: Thank You!

At CCCD, we feel lucky to call the Monadnock Region our home. Thank you to the community members throughout our state and beyond who supported our Community Supported Solar for Farms (CSS) Crowdfunding Campaign!

We are thrilled to announce that together, **we have raised \$17,812!** All funds will go directly to making solar shares through this project more accessible to local farmers!

Thank you for your support of our local farmers, and for ensuring a bright future for our community!



[Learn More About CSS Here!](#)

CCCD's March Community Member Spotlight!

Sara Powell

**Program Director,
The Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship
CCCD Associate Board Member**



A 7-week farmer business planning course has just completed its first successful cohort, transforming local businesses and lives throughout our region. As co-leader of the course, Sara Powell has deep roots in the farming world. Read more about Sara Powell's conservation journey and her role in the new farmer business planning course!

[Read the Community Member Spotlight Feature Here!](#)

**2022 Monadnock Localvores
Jeffrey P. Smith Scholarship Now Accepting
Applications: Connecting Local Youth to
Agriculture and the Natural World!**

**Does your child have interest in farms or gardening?
Would they like to explore these interests this summer?**

The Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship endeavors to connect young people with agriculture & the natural world. Through this scholarship, the Monadnock Localvores hope to inspire the next generation of local farmers & local food supporters, by giving regional children an opportunity, through summer camp, 4-H programs, or membership to NOFA NH, to experience sustainable farming practices first-hand & watch their efforts bear fruit.

We are now accepting applications for 2022 as well as donations to the scholarship fund. For more information, to request application material, or to donate to the scholarship fund, please contact the Cheshire County Conservation District at 603-756-2988 ext.4 or info@cheshireconservation.org.

We hope to accommodate as many children as funding can allow. If you are interested in receiving a paper copy, or a specified number of applications, please let us know and we would be happy to make them available!

Applications are due March 31, 2022! [Apply Here!](#)

☐

[More Information and Apply Here!](#)

CCCD Accepting Orders for 2022 Mushroom Sale! Deadline to order is March 14th!

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CCCD is currently accepting orders for its Mushroom Sale. This year we are continuing our partnership with Wichland Woods to bring you a wide range of locally produced spawns and spores! Order deadline is **March 14, 2022!**

Wichland Woods is a unique, local myco-business located in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. Wichland Woods encourages people to expand their gardening realm into a mycological-friendly landscape. They educate the public on the techniques of "backyard mushrooming" and how everyday resources can be used to cultivate their own mycelia network.

Wichland Woods creates over a dozen local strains of mushrooms, which are carefully expanded using sterile techniques. By working with other northeast mycologists, they are promoting the health benefits that mushrooms have in our world. A percentage of proceeds from the mushroom sale are generously donated to CCCD's conservation programs! Learn more about Wichland Woods, [here!](#)

2022 Pricing and Information:

- All Sawdust Spawns are sold per bag for \$30
- All Plugs are sold in quantities of 100 for \$15.00 -or- 500 for \$32.00 (100 plugs will inoculate approx. 1-2 logs / 500 plugs will inoculate approx. 6-7 logs.

Once your order form is placed, you will receive an email with your total amount and payment information. All orders will be available for pick up at CCCD's 2022 Conservation Plant Sale at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, NH. Pick up date, times, and information will be made available soon.

How to Place Your Online Order:

Place your online order here!

To choose which mushrooms you would like to purchase, enter your requested quantity and indicate if you would like the plug or sawdust spawning option if applicable. Contact Benee Hershon with any questions regarding online ordering, or for assistance in placing your order: [**benee@cheshireconservation.org**](mailto:benee@cheshireconservation.org) or 603-756-2988 x3011

[**Order Information and Available Varieties Here!**](#)

Community Supported Solar for Farms! Limited Number of Shares Remaining!

The Monadnock Region Community Supported Solar project, or CSS, brings together Farmers, Investors and Champions to use available financial models to help local farms realize the potential of the renewable energy economy.

Farmers in New Hampshire face significant energy expenses to run their businesses. This project will help to stabilize and lower costs of electricity for

participating farms through the Community Supported Solar framework and in turn, increase the viability of those farms.

There are a limited number of shares remaining for farms in the EverSource territory interested in participating!

Interested farmers should contact Amanda Littleton directly to reserve their shares; first come first served until sold out.

Either send an email to amanda@cheshireconservation.org or call 607-756-2988 x4 and leave a voicemail.

[More Information Here!](#)

Additional Resources to Go Solar on Your Farm!

Funding is available through the USDA's Rural Development REAP: Rural Energy America Program!

REAP provides grants of up to 25% of the project cost with a loan or grant combination for up to 75% of the cost!

Applications for this year are due on March 31, 2022!

Farm's throughout the state can benefit from this program!

Learn more about a local example of the program which was utilized in Manning Hill Farm's solar project, here: https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/NH-SuccessStory-ManningHill_Fin.pdf

[More Information and Apply Here!](#)

CCCD's King's AgriSeeds Bulk Order Form Now Available!

Farmers can save on shipping costs by ordering through CCCD's bulk seed order through King's AgriSeed! **Place your order by March 7th, 2022!**

View this year's catalog, [here!](#)

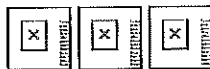
To place your order, use or online order form
here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP7jBxbzS8F77yR-m3-2cq-2WXvNgtNRfcqxVDwWQxXhk2oQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you have any questions, need assistance in placing your order, or would prefer to place your order over the phone or email please call **603-756-2988 x3011** or email **bennee@cheshireconservation.org**.

Once your order has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email with your order total and payment instructions! Pick up information will be shared as soon as possible!

[More Information Here!](#)

Help CCCD Spread the Word! Share your Conservation Events and News with Us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!



Upcoming CCCD Equipment Workshops!

No-Till Workshop: Presented by Windham County NRCD and Cheshire CCD

Learn from farms utilizing no-till practices and connect with resources in VT and NH! Attend online or in person! We ask that all attendees properly wear a face mask and abide by all social distancing protocol.

When: Wednesday, March 16th, 10:00am-12:00pm

**Where: Holton Hall, 4th Floor
Winston Prouty Center
130 Austine Dr. Brattleboro, VT**

Guest Presenters Include:
Connecticut River Watershed
Farmers Alliance
Carl Majewski, UNH Extension
Jonah Mossberg, Milkweed Farm
Sonia Howlett, VAAFM

Presented by Cheshire CCD and Windham County NRCD

Register to Attend Online or In Person!

Soil Steamer Virtual Workshop

Join us for a virtual presentation and round table discussion on soil steaming!
Learn how other farmers are utilizing soil steaming on their farms!

When: Monday, March 21, 2022, 11:30AM-12:30PM

Where: Virtual

Speakers Include:

Andy Pressman, NCAT Northeast
Bruce Wooster, Picadilly Farm
Amanda Littleton, Cheshire County
Conservation District
Jeremy Delisle, UNH Extension
Rebecca Madden, UVM Extension
Steven Fennimore, UC Davis Extension

This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under sub-award number ONE20-370.

For questions or assistance in registration:
email info@cheshireconservation.org or call 603-756-2988 x3011

[Register Here!](#)

Equipment Field Day



Join Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD), Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (Windham County NRCD), and UNH Extension staff and farmers to see equipment in action, and learn about CCCD's equipment rental program! Learn how other farmers have utilized equipment on their land, and ask questions!

When: April 19, 2022 at 11:00 am

Where: Cheshire County Farm River Road Westmoreland, NH 03467

We ask that all attendees properly wear a face mask and abide by all social distancing protocol. If you are experiencing possible Covid-19 symptoms on pick-up day or a positive test, please follow the most up to date CDC guidance and protocol.

Questions?

info@cheshireconservation.org or 603-756-2988 x3011
In case of snow, event will be rescheduled to April 26th at 11:00 AM

[Register Here!](#)

March Wildlife



With snow still on the ground spring may be far from your mind, but throughout March, American Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) begin to emerge for food!

In New Hampshire, bears frequent forests, swamps, as well as woodlots located near suburban neighborhoods.

They typically hibernate in late fall and emerge in spring. Although they are known for their winter hibernation, it is not always a constant state of hibernation. With fluctuating winter temperatures due to climate change, and above average warm winter days, bears will occasionally emerge around their dens for food. Bears will also emerge in the event that their den is flooded or damaged by snowmelt before hibernation season is over.

Black bears diets rely mostly on plant materials, although their diet also includes small mammals and carrion. With less food options in late winter and early spring, bears in suburban areas may look for food in garbage cans or bird feeders.

If you spot a black bear, be sure to keep your distance and admire these incredible creatures from afar!

Sources:

[Bear Biology](#)

[Fish and Game](#)

Events & Community Info



LGBTQ+ Community Hike at the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve

**Saturday, March 26, 2022
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Join Dee Denehy (she, her), Richard Doherty (he, him), and Hunter Kirschner (he, him) for an LGBTQ+ hike on the Red Diamond Trail at the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve in Keene. This will be a moderately strenuous hike along a 1.5-mile loop trail to a lookout point with views of Keene below. There's a steep pitch in some sections, but the trail is beautifully maintained, well-marked, and well-traveled. Hikers should be able to walk on uneven surfaces and over downed trees without difficulty. Afterwards, we'll convene at Brewbakers for warm beverages and conversation! Meet at 2 p.m. at the Horatio Colony Preserve trailhead on Daniels Hill Road in Keene. Done by 5 p.m.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, please fill out this online form. For general information about Harris Center field trips, including questions about accessibility, see our Outings Information page. For questions about this particular outing, please contact Richard Doherty (Contact information at the link below!).

Directions & Parking: From Keene, follow Route 9 West for 1.5 miles from the junction of Routes 9, 10, and 12 through one set of lights. Go straight through the roundabout. Turn left onto Daniels Hill Road (0.5 miles after roundabout). The parking lot is 0.2 miles uphill on the left, and there will be additional parking past the gate. Parking on Daniels Hill Road is not allowed. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve.

More Information Here!



NH DAMF Experience Rural New Hampshire Brochure Registration Form for 2022-23 Listings Open!

The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food is collecting information for the 2022-2023 "Experience Rural New Hampshire" brochure. The publication lists New Hampshire events, activities and places of interest for New Hampshire visitors and residents alike and is one of our most requested pieces. To view a PDF of the 2021-22 brochure, visit: <http://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/rural-nh-brochure.pdf>

It's free to list your NH event! We are seeking information for 2022(May-December) and 2023(January-April) including festivals, shows, museum events, field days, competitions, special markets, dinners, corn mazes, maple events and any other activities that highlight New Hampshire's rural community, history, agriculture and forestry, with emphasis on family entertainment and education. We recognize that COVID restrictions may limit event offerings again this year, but we want to support the tourism/agritourism activities as we can.

To be part of the "Experience Rural New Hampshire" brochure, use the downloadable registration form to send us information about your event(s). Activities may be ongoing or occur on a specific date. Find the registration form on our website: <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/rural-nh-application.pdf>

Call 271-3551 with questions, or email gail.d.mcwilliam.jellie@agr.nh.gov .
Please register by **March 28, 2022.**

More Information and Registration From Here!



Connect Blue: The Connection Between Blue and You

Have you ever thought about the importance of water in your life? Maybe you have always felt a peace come over you whenever you are by a lake or see snowfall. If you'd like to learn more about how we are all connected to water, Connect Blue is for you!

Connect Blue is a FREE program designed to connect local residents in and around Keene to nature through spending time in blue spaces (any space containing a waterscape). We invite you to participate as we will be diving in a wide range of topics and activities every month to get you connected to yourself, others, and nature! This program is meant to be an investment in yourself, so you can escape the burdens of day-to-day life to adventure to the beautiful blue spaces right in your backyard.

During each program session, we will be visiting different outdoor spaces in and around the Keene area. This program will encompass topics such as the history of water in Keene, how the health of our forests directly correlates to our water, how water plays a role in wellness, and ultimately how to have fun in and around water! We look forward to sharing the rich history of how water has shaped our lives here in the Monadnock region.

*Dates of the program are below. Please keep in mind that each program is meant to build on each other to give you the best experience possible. It is expected that upon registration you are committing to participate in the entire program (dates listed below). We understand you might not be able to make it to every session and that's ok! Life happens! **Masks will be required throughout the program duration to ensure the safest environment possible.

February 12th; 10:00am-12:00pm (Robin Hood) Introduction to Blue Spaces

February 26th; 10:00am-12:00pm (TBD) The Connection Between Green and Blue

March 12th; 10:00am-12:00pm (Keene Recreation Center- Room 14) Water Wellness

March 26th; 10:00am-12:00pm (Ashuelot River Park) Place-based Connections

April 2nd; 10:00am-12:00pm (Lake Spofford)

If you have any questions please email Victoria Threadgill at vthreadgill@antioch.edu

Connect Blue can be found on Instagram @connectblueforever

Learn More and Register Here!



Make Your Land Available for Farming: Free Webinar Series for Landowners

Make Your Land Available For Farming is a free webinar series **for farming and non-farming private landowners and their representatives (real estate agents, etc.)** to understand your land's potential for farming, learn what goes into a good farming arrangement, and explore strategies for making any amount of land available to a farmer. When you make land available for farming you help secure a future for farming in your community. **Farmers are looking for land**, from a small vegetable plot to livestock or crops. Productive, sustainable uses for all or parts of your property can bring many rewards!

"As landowners, we found the virtual series to be very useful, both in attracting farmers to our land and in seeing what other landowners had to offer their tenants," shared one participant. "We are now in talks with three farmers, all of whom seem to share our vision for what we'd like to do with the property."

Register for this free, three-part webinar series on March 23, March 30 and April 6, 2022 from 12:00-1:00pm. Workshop recordings will be available to all who register.

Hosted by New England Farm Link Collaborative: Connecticut FarmLink, Maine FarmLink, Vermont Land Link, and Land For Good. *Funded as part of the Land for Farmers project, funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture through its Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Grant #2021-49400-35642.*

[More Information and Register Here!](#)

21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge

Food Solutions New England will host its 8th version of the 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge from **April 4th to the 24th in 2022.**



Early registration is now open for the next Challenge in April 2022!

About the Challenge

The 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge is simple!

You commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront, racism for twenty-one consecutive days in April of 2021.

The Challenge will raise your awareness, change your understanding and shift the way you behave. However, the Challenge goes beyond individual or interpersonal racism by helping to demystify structural and institutional racism and white supremacist patterns that are sometimes invisible to people. Finally, the Challenge inspires you to act, on your own or with others in your organization, business or group, to dismantle these systems, to make changes in your work and the world that can build true equity and justice for all.

[Learn More and Sign Up Here!](#)



Full Moon Owl Prowl in Keene

**Friday, March 18, 2022
7:00PM to 8:00PM**

Join Harris Center naturalist Jenna Spear for an evening walk in search of Barred Owls. We'll discover the wild ways of one of New Hampshire's most common owls as we prowling the edges of fields and forest to listen, look, and call for these mysterious nocturnal birds. Adventure awaits when you go owling under a full moon! A second walk will be held on March 19th in Hancock, visit [The Harris Center website to learn more.](#)

7 to 8 p.m. at Robin Hood Park in Keene. Come prepared with snowshoes or ice traction, or contact us in advance to borrow some from us.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, please fill out [this online form](#). For general information about Harris Center field trips, including questions about accessibility, see our [Outings Information page](#). For more information about this particular event or to borrow snowshoes or ice traction, please contact Jenna (contact information at the link below!).

More Information Here!

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Healthy Home Habitat's 2022 Monadnock Sustainable Yard Workshop Series

There are a total of five, hands-on, outdoor, workshop opportunities that will follow this spring and throughout the rest of the summer.

- Saturday, April 16, 10 AM - "More Pleasure/Less Pain in Your Sustainable Yard",
- Saturday, May 21, 10 AM - "Easy & Fun Home Harvests w/ Vining Vegetables",
- Saturday, June 11, 10 AM - "Super-Charging your Yard's Soil",
- Saturday, July 16, 10 AM - "Creating Your Own Pollinator Patch" and
- Saturday, August 20, 10 AM - "Catching the Rain - Options for your Yard"

Each workshop costs \$32.00 to attend. If you or a substitute friend are interested in attending all workshop dates, you can receive 20% off the cost of attending the series, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9f4w9z>

Register Here!

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Legal Food Hub Webinar Series

The **Legal Food Hub** is a pro-bono matchmaking service for farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food-oriented nonprofits. Each year we host a **Winter Webinar Series**. Each 1-hour session is spent covering a legal topic of significance to food businesses in New England. All webinars are free and run from 12:00-1:00pm.

•**MAR 9: Employment Law for Maine Farmers: WOOFers, Volunteers, and CSA Workers**

Presenter: Tom Trenholm, Drummond Woodsum

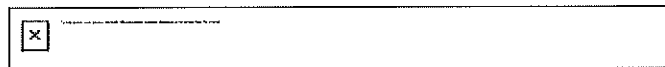
•**MAR 16: Your Legal Toolkit for Starting a Farm**

Presenter: Amy Manzelli, BCM Environmental & Land Law

NOFA-NH “Feeding the Family” Virtual Organic Gardening Series

Learn about garden planning, fruit and nut trees, permaculture principles, container gardening, backyard herbs, and raising chickens in NOFA-NH’s upcoming “Feeding the Family” Organic Gardening Series!

Join beginning and experienced growers for 6 exciting online workshops featuring speakers with diverse expertise. Instructors include Ron Christie, Nicko Rubin, Amy Antonucci, Acadia Tucker, Maria Noël Groves, and Paolamantina Grullón Livingstone. Classes are bi-weekly beginning February 22. Tickets: \$10 per class, \$50 for the series.



[Learn More and Register Here!](#)



Hike to Stoddard Rocks

**Saturday March 5, 2022
9:00PM to 3:00PM**

Join Denny Wheeler and Brian Bishoff for a moderately strenuous, 5-mile hike on trails and woods roads to scenic Stoddard Rocks above Pioneer Lake. We’ll start out at the Forest Society’s Pickerel Cove Forest before crossing into land conserved by the Town of Stoddard. Expect about 650 feet of elevation gain. Come prepared with snowshoes or ice traction, or contact us in advance to borrow some from us. Bring lunch, and meet at the Pickerel Cove trailhead on Shedd Hill Road in Stoddard at 9 a.m. Back by 3 p.m. Overflow parking is available at the Highland Lake Marina.

Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, please fill out **this online form**.

For general information about Harris Center field trips, including questions about accessibility, see **our Outings Information page**. For questions about this particular outing, contact Denny or Brian. To borrow snowshoes or ice traction, please contact Miles Stahmann (Contact information at the link below!).

Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Forest Society.

[More Information Here!](#)

Resources & Services

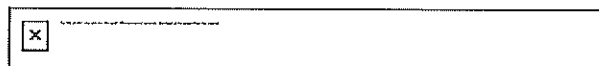
Now Accepting Reservations!

The Cheshire County Conservation District provides low-cost farm equipment rentals each year in and around Cheshire County.

This is a valuable cost-saving service to local growers that supports the CCCD's mission of improving soil quality and management through the conservation and responsible use of natural and agricultural resources.

Available Farm Equipment in 2021:

- 7' Haybuster No-Till Drill
- 12' Esch No-Till Drill
- ZRX Roller Crimper Corn Planter
- Roller Crimper
- Wood Ash/Lime Spreader
- Aerway Aerator



- Soil Steamer
- No-Till Vegetable Transplanter
- BCS Tractor
- Subsoiler
- Penetrometer

More Information About Rental Equipment!

If you would like to reserve a piece of farm equipment listed above, contact CCCD at 603-756-2988 ext.4 or send an email to info@cheshireconservation.org

Help Us Update Our Local Farm Map!

Now more than ever, folks straying away from grocery stores and looking to local farms for fresh food, milk, eggs, bread, etc.

Help us ensure that folks know about your farm's offerings, hours, location, & more as we update our [Find A Local Farm Map!](#)



How to Update your farm's info:

- Step 1: Visit the CCCD website [here](#)
 Step 2: Use the map to locate your farm
 Step 3: Review your farm's listed information
 Step 4: Email us with any necessary updates

Email to: benec@cheshireconservation.org
 Subject line: "Farm Map: "Your Farm Name"

Cheshire County Conservation District | 603.756.2988 EXT. 4
www.cheshireconservation.org | info@cheshireconservation.org

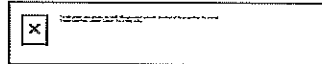


Cheshire County Conservation District | 11 Industrial Park Drive, Walpole, NH 03608

[Unsubscribe marlowtownoffice@marlownh.gov](mailto:marlowtownoffice@marlownh.gov)

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